

also is noticeably buffier. The mandible is marked by the collector as "pale horn-color at base", but it is not so extensively pale as in typical *sancti-thomae*. The color characters, in connection with the relatively longer bill, serve to make

this an easily recognizable race when compared with *nigrirostris*.

The El Tambor specimen, however, from the interior of Colombia, may represent another race of this species.

HERPETOLOGY.—*A new subspecies of toad from Santa Catharina, Brazil.*¹ DORIS M. COCHRAN, U. S. National Museum.

During a study of the giant toads of Brazil, I compared a series of 91 *Bufo ictericus* Spix from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo with 75 somewhat similar toads from Santa Catharina and found the latter deserving of subspecific recognition. I take pleasure in naming the new form after Dr. Robert Mertens, whose interest in the amphibians of southern Brazil is of long standing.

Bufo ictericus mertensi, n. subsp.

Diagnosis of Bufo ictericus mertensi.—Resembles *Bufo ictericus* Spix in general structure and color. Differs in having a longer femur and tibia and a narrower head than the true *ictericus*.

Description of the type.—An adult male, U.S.N.M. no. 105244 from Nova Teutonia, Itá, Santa Catharina, collected in 1938 by Fritz Plaumann. Tongue broadly elliptical, nearly one-half as wide as mouth opening, entire and free for its posterior half; snout short, rounded when seen from above and in profile, the upper jaw not extending beyond the lower; nostrils twice as far from eye as from tip of snout, well below the canthus, their openings superolateral, separated from each other by an interval equal to their distance from eye. Canthus rostralis with a heavy crest, which forks in front of eye, the main crest continuing above eye and forking again to form a short medial parietal crest, and a heavy postorbital crest which connects with the parotoid by a very short bridge; interorbital space concave; parotoid glands large and heavy, obovate, their inner borders slightly concave, their posterior borders on a level with the axillae. Eye moderate, scarcely projecting beyond the surrounding ridges, its diameter a little less than its distance from end of snout; interorbital diameter twice the width of upper eyelid, and twice the distance between nostrils. Tympanum very distinct, higher than broad, its height equal to

three-fifths the diameter of eye, separated from eye by less than one-half its own height. Fingers free, with distinct lateral ridges, first finger longer than second and fourth; palmar tubercles prominent; subarticular tubercles of fingers single except for distal ones of third finger, which are double; toes nearly one-half webbed, fringed laterally to the tips, third much longer than fifth and reaching to base of penultimate phalanx of fourth; a small oval inner and a round outer metatarsal tubercle; subarticular tubercles of toes reduced to small spinules almost indistinguishable from those covering the tarsus; a distinct tarsal ridge marked by small tubercles. Body not especially stout, in postaxillary region nearly equal to greatest width of head; when hind leg is adpressed, heel reaches to front of shoulder; when limbs are laid along the sides, knee and elbow touch; when hind legs are bent at right angles to the body, heels fail to meet. Dorsum covered with large and small warts, all of them closely set with small dark spinules (in the male). Scapular ridges very heavy. No large tibial gland. No skin fold on chest. Venter coarsely granular, the throat and chest with small spiny tubercles mixed with the granules.

Color of adult male.—Back olive, with the numerous large warts set off by minute seal-brown spinules; top of crests and parotoid glands russet to clay color. Lower parts buff, the belly and sides with a coarse olive network; a few buff spots on outer sides of parotoid glands. Upper lip with a pale buff area from tip of snout to below eye, the labial crests with many small brown spinules. Palms and soles pale olive; the tips of fingers and toes, as well as the palmar and metatarsal tubercles, dark brown.

The females and young are much more brightly marked with a wide buff middorsal stripe, on each side of which is a row of dark brown spots, the anterior extending onto the eyelids. In older females the brown spots often fuse to a pair of sinuous brown stripes bordering the yellowish

¹ Received May 8, 1950.

middorsal one. The olive or brown ventral reticulations are more extensive in some specimens, reaching as far forward as the chest. A semicircle of buff on the side of the chest marks the insertion of the arm.

Measurements of the type.—Total length, 102 mm; head length (to posterior border of tympanum), 30.5 mm; head width, 42 mm; femur, 41 mm; tibia, 45 mm; foot (from proximal base of inner metatarsal tubercle), 41.5 mm; hand, 28 mm.

CRITICAL MEASUREMENTS IN PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LENGTH						
	Head length	Head width	Femur	Tibia	Foot	Hand
In the type.....	29.8	41.2	40.2	44.1	49.7	27.4
In the entire series of 75 specimens:						
Mean.....	28.9	39.9	41.6	39.2	40.2	25.5
σ	1.77	1.55	2.74	1.87	2.53	1.52
Variation.....	6.1	3.9	6.6	4.8	6.3	6.0
σM	.205	.179	.317	.217	.295	.177
Range.....	24.0–33.4	35.5–44.0	35.9–48.2	34.8–44.1	34.8–46.0	20.3–29.5

Significant differences in twice the Standard Error of the Mean above and below the Mean are found in three of the critical measurements of *mertensi* as compared to the true *ictericus* from Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The head width is greater in *ictericus*, while the length of femur and tibia are greater in *mertensi*.

When a typical specimen of *ictericus* (U.S.N.M. no. 97740 from Nova Friburgo, Rio de Janeiro)

is compared with the type of *mertensi*, the following differences are apparent:

Character	<i>ictericus</i>	<i>mertensi</i>
Tongue.....	Oval, one-third width of mouth.	Broadly elliptical, nearly one-half.
Nostrils.....	A little nearer to snout tip than to eye.	Twice as far from eye as from snout tip.
Interval between nostrils.....	Greater than their distance from eye.	Equal to that distance.
Eye diameter.....	Greater than its distance from snout tip.	A little less.
Tympanum/eye diameter.....	One-half	Three-fifths
Subarticular tubercles of fingers.....	Double (basal) or semidivided (distal).	Single (basal) distal of third double.
Toes webbed.....	One-third.	Nearly one-half.
Tarsal ridge.....	Faint, short.	Distinct, marked by tubercles.
Subarticular tubercles of toes.....	Small, double.	Reduced to small spinules.
Width of body in postaxillary region.....	1½ times head width.	Nearly equal.
Knee and elbow.....	Fail to meet.	Touch.
Heels.....	Touch.	Fail to meet.
Scapular ridges.....	Very indistinct.	Very heavy.
Skinfold on chest.....	Slight.	Absent.

As many of these differences tend to merge when large series of both forms are compared, the diagnosis of *mertensi* is based on essential differences in critical measurements.

Paratypes.—U.S.N.M. nos. 103842–103906 and 105245–105251, with the same data as the type; U.S.N.M. nos. 98777–98778 from São Bento, Santa Catharina, collected by Bruno Behr in 1935.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ACADEMY

438TH MEETING OF BOARD OF MANAGERS

The 438th meeting of the Board of Managers, held in the Cosmos Club on May 15, 1950, was called to order by President F. B. SILSBEE at 8:08 p.m. Also present were: H. S. RAPPLEYE, J. A. STEVENSON, H. A. REHDER, F. C. KRACEK, W. N. FENTON, C. L. GAZIN, W. R. WEDEL, W. A. DAYTON, E. W. PRICE, H. W. HEMPLE, H. G. DORSEY, O. B. FRENCH, F. M. SETZLER, and, by invitation, R. G. GATES and J. L. SHERESHEFSKY.

The President appointed J. A. STEVENSON to serve as the Academy's official delegate to the Seventh International Botanical Congress at Stockholm July 12–20, 1950. An invitation was read from the Fifth South American Congress of Chemistry inviting the Academy to participate in its proceedings to be held at Lima, Peru, May 4–11, 1951.

The Chairman of the Committee on Membership submitted the names of 25 nominees for resident membership. Fifteen individuals previously nominated were elected.

A letter from the American Association for the Advancement of Science indicated the amount of money available to the Academy for grants-in-aid of research.

Mrs. ANNIE M. KARRER was placed on the retired list, as of December 31, 1950.

Two deaths were reported: OAKES AMES, University Museum, Cambridge, Mass., on April 28, 1950 (elected June 8, 1931), and L. O. HOWARD, former chief of the Bureau of Entomology, on May 1, 1950 (original member; elected to honorary membership February 26, 1930).

The Treasurer reviewed the transaction concerning the purchase of Washington Sanitary